



Dr. S. Parasuraman is Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences with 25 years of experience as a teacher, trainer, activist, administrator and development worker. Dr. Parasuraman has a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Poona, Pune and a Ph.D. in Demography from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. He has held key positions in international organisations as Asia Regional Policy Coordinator, ActionAid Asia; Senior Advisor to the Commission, and Team Leader of the Secretariat; World Commission on Dams; and as Programme Director, Oxfam GB, India Programme. Dr. Parasuraman has been associated with the Narmada Movement from 1987 and was a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Committee to review the Tehri Hydroelectric

Project. He has also been a Key member of the 'Practioners Forum on Human Rights in Development' (facilitated by the UNHCHR), involving UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and NGOs with Asia regional offices based in Bangkok; and Key member of an NGO network engaged in advocacy with the Asian Development Bank. Dr. Parasuraman has over 50 publications in the form of articles in international and national journals, books and research reports.



Dr Venkat Pulla is Principal, Social Work and Capacity Development Consulting and President, Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice. He is also the National Nominee of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) for Accreditation of Departments of Social Work and Human Services of Australian Universities (2005-2008) and Convenor of the International Social Work Special Interest Group, AASW Queensland. Venkat has recently been elected as Vice President of AASW, Queensland.

Venkat is a Tata Institute of Social Sciences, graduate from India. A Tata Dorabji Scholar, he has a Doctorate in the field of Community Development obtained In India. His work life includes positions as Head of the Social Work Department in the Northern Territory University Darwin, for three years, and 15 years in India in Teaching and Training at the College of Social Work, Hyderabad, and Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Osmania University. He has recognition in areas of training for performance measures, quality, change management, strength based child protection, family directed practice, trauma torture counselling and refugee resettlement. His policy consulting included health policy, urbanisation, poverty alleviation, social infrastructures, disability and aged care, wage reform, employee strategies, and industrialisation.

His life has been an incredible journey. It has savoured vignettes at the coal face in human services as well as offered him stints of consulting to India's National Commission on Urbanisation, set up by Rajeev Gandhi, a visionary Prime Minister. It threw open a Travelling Lectureship around the US, Europe and Asia and brought in consulting opportunities with federal and state departments and international non government organisations such as ICCO, Memisa and HIVOS from the Netherlands, BFW and EZE from Germany, OXFAM and ODA from the United Kingdom and UNICEF amongst others. As one of the pioneers in strength based practice, he offers professional supervision, process facilitation for managing change and wide ranging assistance to not-for-profit sector and organisational development. This conference and the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice (Inc) are Venkat's initiatives. Venkat can be reached at Dr.Venkat.Pull@gmail.com



Simin Raheal (Simi) is an actor model anchor documentary maker and a teacher of tertiary course work in mass communications from Pakistan. She is the only mainstream media professional who interfaces entertainment media and development. Simi Raheal's diversity is what sets her apart from most other development professionals. She holds a degree from National College of Arts in textile design and numerous certificates on gender, media, reproductive health and human rights. She was awarded the FATIMA JINNAH medal for media and development 2006, named after the wife of the founding father of Pakistan. Her extensive research on media and development has led her to design mainstream programmes for television incorporating development language and ideology. Her mission is to integrate development especially development of women through the media and to create a marriage between development and media.



Chris Radke has worked as a support professional and manager in the field of intellectual disability support for over 20 years and has been actively involved in welfare and community support for more years than she can remember. Chris is passionate about the positive impact that the practice of Social Role Valorisation (SRV) theory can have in the lives of people with an intellectual disability and has been a champion of SRV education for all support workers and their managers. In this regard she has worked closely with John Armstrong, Australia's senior SRV trainer, in the development of training packages and the delivery of training. Together, Chris and John Armstrong bring a breadth of knowledge and practical experience in the implementation of SRV in Australia that has little parallel. Chris is a Member of the Brisbane Institute of Strengths based Practice.



Amarawansa Ranaweera is working as the Director, Sri Lanka School of Social Work, the only institute which provides social work education in Sri Lanka. He has more than 24 years of service as a social work educator. He started his carrier as a teacher at the university after obtaining his first degree in Sociology from the University of Colombo in 1979. He obtained the Masters Degree in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 1984 in the field of Community Organization. He worked hard to develop the School of Social Work and was able to make it a higher education institute in Sri Lanka.